

Office of the City Manager

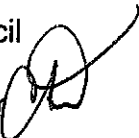
RECEIVED

NOV 27 2013

CITY OF BERKELEY
CITY CLERK DEPARTMENT

Date: November 26, 2013

To: Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council

From: Christine Daniel, City Manager 

Re: **Correction to 2013 Health Status Report**

INTRODUCTION

Berkeley's 2013 Health Status Report (HSR) was presented to Council in a worksession on October 29, 2013. Since that time, the Public Health Division staff has continued to delve into the report and its implications. In that process Figure 5.5 on page 119 of the full HSR stood out as inconsistent with the rest of the information in the report. This caused us to go back to the original data in order to understand the discrepancy.

Staff discovered that there had been a data entry error in Figure 5.5. Information about the African American death rate had been transposed: it was entered in reverse chronological order. This resulted in the figure showing an *increasing* rate, whereas the data actually show a *decreasing* rate. In addition, the data were incomplete (2010 data were not included). The figure and accompanying narrative have been corrected. A copy of the corrected figure is attached and can be inserted into your printed version of the HSR. The corrected electronic version (pdf) is being posted on the City's website.

BACKGROUND

The corrected Figure 5.5 demonstrates that throughout the last decade the death rate for the Berkeley population overall has been essentially stable. The death rate for African Americans during this time has decreased, although the rate remains markedly higher than the death rate in the population overall. In the most recent years for which we have data, the gap between African Americans and others has narrowed. This is consistent with the information presented on October 29, 2013 and with the information presented throughout the HSR.

Specifically, heart disease is the leading cause of death among African Americans. Deaths from heart disease are decreasing among African Americans, as among others (see Figure 5.18). Hospitalizations for heart disease (Figures 4.15, 4.17, 4.18) have decreased in the African American population as among other populations. A decrease in the overall death rate is expected when there is a decrease in the leading cause of death. The corrected Figure 5.5 is consistent with this pattern.

Page 2
November 26, 2012
Re: Correction to 2013 Health Status Report

We regret that erroneous information was published. All of the data in Chapter 5 has been reviewed and we are confident that there are no other similar errors.

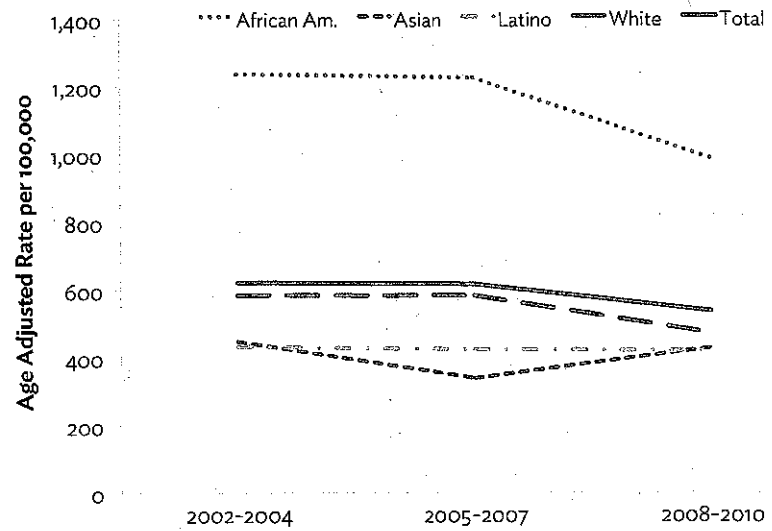
Attachment: Corrected Figure 5.5

cc: William Rogers, Deputy City Manager
Ann-Marie Hogan, City Auditor
Mark Numainville, City Clerk
Jane Micallef, Health, Housing & Community Services Director
Janet Berreman, Public Health Officer
Matthai Chakko, Public Information Officer

Deaths in Berkeley continued

Throughout the last decade, the death rate for the Berkeley population overall has been essentially stable. The death rate for African Americans during this time has decreased, although the rate remains markedly higher than the death rate in the population overall. In the most recent years for which we have data, the gap between African Americans and others has narrowed.

Figure 5.5 DEATH RATES BY RACE/ETHNICITY AND YEAR OF DEATH
Berkeley, 2001-2009



Source: Berkeley Public Health Division Death Certificates, US Census